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THE

Climate and Health Conditions

OF THE

STATE OF LOUISIANA.

*“What kind of climate has the im-
migrant to expect, and what are the
health conditions in Louisiana?”*

By PROFESSOR J.^{ohn} HANNO DEILER,
OF TULANE UNIVERSITY.

THE CLIMATE AND HEALTH CONDITIONS OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.

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“What kind of climate has the immigrant to expect, and what are the health conditions in Louisiana?” This is one of the most important points about which those who intend to settle in this State desire information.

Above all other requirements for a good climate the difference between summer-heat and winter-cold should not be too great. How New Orleans and Shreveport, the representative cities of South and North Louisiana, stand in this respect may be seen from the following table, which I have prepared for the pamphlet of the “German Society of New Orleans” from statements of the United States Weather Bureau up to Aug. 31, 1894:

The difference in temperature between the coldest and hottest day of the year was as follows:

	Deg. F.		Deg. F.
Key West, Fla.....	59	Pittsburg, Pa.....	115
San Diego, Cal.....	69	Cincinnati, Ohio.....	116
<i>New Orleans, La.....</i>	<i>84</i>	Chicago.....	123
Pensacola, Fla.....	84	Columbus, Ohio.....	123
Sacramento, Cal.....	89	Louisville, Ky.....	125
Jacksonville, Fla.....	89	St. Louis, Mo.....	128
Mobile, Ala.....	90	Denver, Col.....	134
Atlanta, Ga.....	102	Des Moines, Ia.....	134
Montgomery, Ala.....	102	Dubuque, Ia.....	134
<i>Shreveport, La.....</i>	<i>106</i>	Leavenworth, Kan.....	136
New York City.....	106	Omaha, Neb.....	138
Philadelphia, Pa.....	107	St. Paul, Minn.....	141
Baltimore, Md.....	108	Yankton, S. Dak.....	141
Little Rock, Ark.....	108	Valentine, Neb.....	144
Memphis, Tenn.....	110	Ft. Washakie, Wyo.....	154
Santa Fe, N. M.....	110	Ft. Buford, N. Dak.....	156
Nashville, Tenn.....	114	St. Vincent, Minn.....	157
Portland, Me.....	114	Poplar River, Mont.....	173
Boston, Mass.....	115		

Michigan	Max. In. 37	Min. In. 32
Iowa.....	" 37	" 36
Nebraska	" 33	" 17
Wisconsin.....	" 32	" 31
Minnesota.....	" 32	" 16
S. Dakota	" 27	" —
California.....	" 27	" 11
N. Dakota	" 19	" 13
Arizona.....	" 16	" 3
Montana	" 15	" 10
Idaho	" 13	" —
Wyoming	" 11	" 8

In order to save space, we shall not mention all the States, but it may be remarked that the maximum of Louisiana (64 inches in New Orleans) is exceeded only by two stations: Hatteras, North Carrolina, 69 inches, and Tatoosch Island, Washington, 92 inches.

From the above official table, it is seen that Louisiana possesses a climate with less extremes than most of the other states of the Union—a mild winter, with hardly any snow and very little ice; a summer-temperature cooled by the Gulf breeze, and more bearable than that of many other parts of the country, and copious rains, which secure to the farmer abundant crops every year.

Besides the climate, the *health conditions* of a state are of great importance to home-seekers. Statistics show that the death rate among the white population of the State of Louisiana is 15.12 per 1000 that is to say, from 66 white persons one death is reported annually. This death-rate is exceeded by many states, in which Louisiana has been spoken of as being a most unhealthy region. Reference is made to the following states with their death-rates per 1000.

Louisiana	15.12
Maryland.....	16.08
Delaware.....	16.47
New Mexico	16.82
New Hampshire	17.43
Connecticut	18.97
District of Columbia.....	19.67
Massachusetts	19.89
New York (State)	20.04
New Jersey	20.44
Rhode Island.....	21.55

It appears from the above that the whites of Louisiana are much better situated than the people of the "healthful" States of Maryland, Delaware, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Connecticut, etc.

Even Washington, the capital of the country, the city of palaces and the home of the National Board of Health, which annually orders a hunt after "germs" in New Orleans, can not compare with us.

The same may be said of Massachusetts, the "educated" state, and "last but not least" of the great State of New York. They can not show health statistics like ours.

It seems that we may be well satisfied with the death-rate of the whites in Louisiana and are fully justified in recommending our state to such of our countrymen as are inclined to settle in the South.

In regard to the principal causes of death, it can be said that so far the census reports only of the largest cities have been published and it is found that over 12 per cent. of the deaths in New Orleans are caused by *Consumption*.

How other cities and countries stand in this respect, the following table shows:

New Orleans	12.10	Per cent.
Germany	12.70	" "
Louisville, Ky.....	12.89	" "
New York City.....	13.53	" "
Providence, R. I.....	13.57	" "
Boston, Mass.....	15.15	" "
Belgium	18.20	" "
Russia	19.60	" "

It is well known that every year many people in the last stages of consumption come here from the North to escape the severe cold of the Northern winter, and die here. In spite of this it is to be seen that New Orleans shows a very small percentage, as it naturally should, because consumption is a disease of the Northern climate and of large manufacturing cities, where conditions prevail, which, fortunately, are not known here. No one need stay away from Louisiana on account of consumption.

The next greatest percentage of deaths is

caused by *Diarrhæal Diseases*, and New Orleans is quoted with 10.37 per cent.; other cities, as follows:

New Orleans.....	10.37	Per cent.
New York.....	10.52	" "
Detroit	11.27	" "
Baltimore.....	12.40	" "
St. Paul, Minn.	13.52	" "

Pneumonia follows with 4.97 per cent. of all deaths in New Orleans, against other cities and countries, as follows:

Germany	4.00	Per cent.
Belgium	4.50	" "
New Orleans.....	4.97	" "
England	5.10	" "
Italy.....	5.40	" "
Holland	5.70	" "
Switzerland	6.00	" "
Scandinavia.....	7.10	" "
France.....	7.20	" "
St. Louis.....	7.39	" "
Chicago	8.85	" "
Cincinnati	9.39	" "
Boston.....	10.13	" "
Russia.....	11.50	" "

And now for the notorious *Malarial Fever*. The census reports as published contain only the largest cities, and New Orleans appears with 4.26 per cent. of all deaths, the highest fever rate. During the census year, there died in New Orleans 292 persons of Malarial Fever, that is, *one person out of every 828*.

If consumption kills 70 out of 100 needle makers, or 63 filecutters, or 48 lithographers, 37 watchmakers, 25 painters and weavers, 19 shoemakers, 14 carpenters, 11 brewers and 7 bakers and butchers in each hundred, is this a warning against engaging in such trades?

And New Orleans shows only one death from Malarial Fever out of every 828 persons!

From France are reported 7 deaths out of 100. caused by Typhoid; from Germany, 4½. Who would think of warning people not to go to Germany or France for this reason?

New Orleans has less deaths from Malaria than

the summer, and that only the negro can stand the heat. As far as the heat is concerned, the truth has been stated above; in regard to labor it should be said that there are certain people who can *never* work, because they do not *want* to—during the summer it is too hot and during the winter too cold for them, and they are willing to believe that only the negro can stand the heat.

Our German gardeners and farmers, as well as thousands of other nationalities, have performed labor in garden and field for many years. They need no negroes and feel so comfortable that they prefer the summer to the winter. On extremely hot days they work in the field only during the morning and afternoon hours, “laying off” during the midday heat as they do in other sections under similar conditions.

Cases of sunstroke are reported from Northern and Western cities by the half-hundred; they occur here but seldom.

An important factor in describing the different climates is the statistics of *rainfall*, as the work of the farmer can not be successful without rain. It is safe to say that Louisiana is a land richly blessed in this respect.

In making comparisons with other States it should be remembered that in Louisiana rainwater alone has to be dealt with, while in the Northern States the amount of snow-water is included.

Furthermore, it should be remembered that the rainfall in different parts of a state is different, and that, therefore, whenever the figures are at hand the minimum and maximum are stated.

The States are arranged in the order as the maximum was reported, and fractions have been left out.

Rainfall and Snow-Water from September 1, 1893, to August 31, 1894:

Louisiana	Max. In.	64	Min. In.	52
Oregon	“	49	“	9
Missouri	“	48	“	38
Kentucky	“	46	“	—
Texas	“	45	“	10
Indiana	“	44	“	—
Illinois	“	43	“	36
Ohio	“	41	“	31
Kansas	“	38	“	20

Thus we see the State of Louisiana is blessed with a uniform temperature, and can not only compare favorably with other states, but is, in this respect, far ahead of most of them.

Ice appears here very seldom, and with the exception of last winter (1894-5), when the severest cold weather prevailed everywhere, New Orleans has only once in twenty years had a sufficient quantity of snow to allow the people for a few hours the novel sport of snow-balling, which many preceding generations had missed.

Regarding the *Heat of Summer* in Louisiana there prevails in many parts a totally erroneous opinion. It is believed that it must be warmer here than in other States because Louisiana is located farther south. Such reasoning is utterly false; living in close proximity to the Mexican Gulf, and having during the months of March, April, May, June, July and August almost constantly south winds, we always have a cooling sea breeze.

It is a well known fact that residences with sufficient openings toward the south are always preferred.

In consideration of the above, it is not astonishing that during the summer of 1894 the highest reported temperature in New Orleans was only 99 deg. Fahrenheit, against—

100 in New York, Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul.

101 in La Crosse, Wis., and San Diego, Cal.

102 in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston, Lynchburg and Norfolk.

103 in Columbus, O., and Wilmington, Del.

104 in Cincinnati.

105 in Louisville.

106 in St. Louis, Mo., Omaha, and Valentine, Neb.

107 in Montgomery, Ala., Leavenworth, Kan., Boise City, Idaho, North Platte, Neb., Fort Buford, N. D., and Yankton, S. D.

108 in Sacramento, Cal., and Fort Elliott, Tex.

110 in Poplar River, Mon.

113 in El Paso, Tex.

114 in Red Bluff, Cal., and

118 in Yuma, Arizona.

Another widespread error is the impression that a white man can not work in this climate during

Germany from Typhoid. Besides this the conditions in the rural portions where the settlers are to go, are much more favorable than in the city, and former reports show that Louisiana has suffered less from Malaria than our neighbouring states, Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas. Therefore the final statements of the census bureau regarding the fever rate in Louisiana may be awaited without fear, which reports, it is to be hoped, may soon be published.

Attention is next called to the percentage of deaths resulting from Typhoid Fever, viz.:

New Orleans.....	0.65	Per cent.
Baltimore	1.87	" "
San Francisco	2.35	" "
Philadelphia	3.24	" "
Chicago	3.42	" "
Louisville	3.47	" "
St. Paul	4.10	" "
Germany	4.50	" "
Belgium.....	4.60	" "
Russia.....	4.80	" "
Pittsburg	5.83	" "
France	7.20	" "

It is hardly necessary to refer to Yellow Fever. It was once thought to be indigenous, but the fact that there has been no Yellow Fever here for the past seventeen years proves that this is an error, and that our excellent and effective quarantine system, instituted by Dr. Holt, will continue to prevent its re-introduction.

The result of these reflections upon the health and climatic conditions of the State of Louisiana, is that no fear need be entertained when a comparison of the statistics of Louisiana is made with the statistics of any of the American States or any of the European countries; and every person looking for a new home may safely turn his footsteps toward Louisiana without fear of any great danger to his health and life.

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